

*[English]***Export of Onion**

4832. SHRIG. MADEGODWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum export price (MEP) fixed by National Agricultural Co-operation Marketing Federation (NAFED) for export of onion has declined during 1991-92 and has resulted in loss of foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fix higher minimum export price for onion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The average minimum export price of onion during 1991-92 (April, 1991 to Feb., 1992) was Rs. 4228 per ten POB as against the average price of Rs. 3923 per ten FOB during the corresponding period of 1990-91. During the current year 3.69 lakh tonnes of onion valued at Rs. 157. 10 crores were exported up to the end of Feb., 1992 as compared to the export of 2.47 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 96.91 crores during the corresponding period of 1990-91. Minimum export price is fixed by NAFED taking into account the recommendations of Price Fixation Advisory Committee, prevailing internal and international prices, crop forecast and marketing trends within the country and other related aspects.

*[Translation]***Cultivation of Barren Land**

4833. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of barren land made

cultivable during the last three years, Statewise; and

(b) the target fixed for the cultivation of the barren land during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Barren land includes exposed steep mountain slopes, snow cover and extremely inhospitable arid tracts which cannot be brought under cultivation at economic cost. Hence there is no programme to bring barren land under cultivation. However, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of river Valley Projects and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers provides for treatment of barren land in the selected watersheds.

(b) Does not arise.

**Fish Production**

4834. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for fish production in the country during Eighth five year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) yes, Sir.